

**Who**

## is the "blade runner"?

✓ Twenty-five-year-old South African sprinter Oscar Pistorius is known as "Blade Runner" and the "fastest man on no legs."

He was born without long, slender bones that run along the outside of the leg from below the knee. His legs were later amputated. He now runs with the aid of Cheetah Flex-Foot carbon fibre transibial artificial limbs. He is currently the world record holder in 100, 200 and 400 metre events.



Oscar Pistorius



**Where**

## is mankind's next destination?

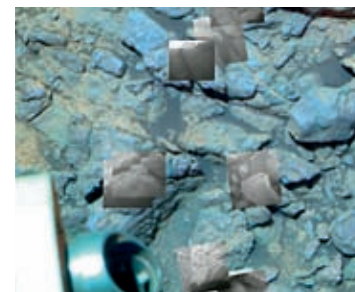
Scientists are striving to find a planet where the human race can continue to survive. Mars seems to be that final destination.

SAMYUKTHA K.

✓ Space has been described as 'The final frontier' for ages and has captured the imagination of mankind for centuries. This imagination has only been fuelled by Nasa's Rover Opportunity making surprising discoveries while exploring the rim of a huge Martian crater. Nasa now sees the viability of growing a garden on Mars. The Red Planet offers hope of an alternative dwelling place for humans given the fast depleting resources of our home planet, Earth.

General Secretary of the Planetary Society of India, N Raghunandan Kumar, surmises, "What started off as fascination has now turned into a necessity," he says, quoting Stephen Hawking on his prediction that life as we know it, would cease to exist in a span of 200 years.

"The birth of newer streams of studies such as astro-biology and astro-chemistry only goes on to prove the progress mankind is making towards finding another habitable environment," he insists, listing a long list of milestones in space exploration — from the discovery of water on Moon to the Mars 500 project to support his statement citing the roles of Indians such as Rakesh Sharma and US born Indian, Sunitha Williams.



Tisdale 2, a rock examined by Mars rover

However, there are those who are sceptic about life existing on other planets. Professor Vishwajith Paul of Raman Research Institute in Bangalore has no doubt that the possibility of a colony beyond the surface of Earth is "not realistic". "Over the last five years, we have discovered several planets around far off stars. While some of these have been termed Earth-like, the real challenge is to build a spaceship that can travel light years to transport humans," he says.

Young scientists like 25 year old Satyajit Sharma, an aeronautical engineer, are more hopeful and believe in the possibility of sustaining life on Mars. He explains, "Nasa's efforts to grow plants on Mars gives us hope that there is another place where human life can continue in its magnificence. Mars may well be the next home for the human race!"

**What**

## is the Burning Man?

✓ The Burning Man is a week-long annual art event and a community-based on radical self expression and self-reliance. Every year, thousands of participants gather at Nevada's Black Rock City, an ancient lake bed and then wrap up after a week without leaving a trace of ever having been there. The community believes in a spirit of inclusion and welcomes everyone who wants to be a part of it. Each year the festival has a different theme, this year's being Rites of Passage.



A reveller at the Burning Man

**When**

## is Asia's biggest party?

✓ Come December 27, 28 and 29, India's hottest party destination Goa will witness Asia's biggest music festival — Sunburn, a 3-day electronic dance music festival and a synergy of music, entertainment, food, shopping and lifestyle. Held on Candolim beach, the fest brings together world renowned DJs and attracts thousands of young revellers from across the globe. Started to showcase India as a dance festival destination, Sunburn this year will see artists like DJ Tiesto, Akshent and Ferry Corsten.



**Why**

## PEOPLE CAN'T FIND JOBS

Ron McGowan, the author of international best seller *How to Find Work in the 21st Century*, elaborates on four key factors that hamper job seekers' prospects today

**They're looking in the wrong places.**

It's unlikely that you'll find employment by attending a job fair, looking at a newspaper or job sites online. Majority of opportunities are never advertised and job seekers must learn how to sniff them out and approach employers in a strategic way.

**They're using the wrong tools.**

Most people use one tool only: a resume/CV. They must learn how to create a variety of tools that are marketing oriented and focused on the needs of the employer.

**They're making it hard to get hired.**

If the only option you give an employer is to offer you a permanent full-time position, you're making it hard for them to hire you. Being open to accepting part-time or contract work without reservations is essential.

**They're ignorant about Social Media.**

Managing your online presence is as important as managing your credit rating. In the U.S., for instance, 70 percent of recruiters report that they have rejected candidates because of information they found out about them online.

**Their governments are failing them.**

Governments have failed to stimulate economy while small businesses that have been creating most of the new jobs have been virtually ignored. Countries that will succeed in the coming decade are the ones that will give small businesses the support they need.

